

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7183
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0330

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, FI
SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF 28TH UNGA

REF: (A) STATE 250151 (B) HELSINKI 294 (C) STATE 029835

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL (A), EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED 28TH UNGA WITH FINNISH GOVERNMENT THROUGH DISCUSSION AMBASSADOR, DCM, AND POLITICAL OFFICER HAD WITH FINNISH AMBASSADOR TO UN, AARNO KARHILO (ALSO PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC), AND FONMIN UN SECTION CHIEF MATTI KAHILUOTO, AS WELL AS SEPARATE TALKS BETWEEN POLITICAL OFFICER AND KAHILUOTO.

2. FINNS WERE HAPPY TO DISCUSS 28TH UNGA AND FUTURE OUTLOOK. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH US ASSESSMENT AS PROVIDED IN REFTEL (A), ALTHOUGH KARHILO WAS PERHAPS LESS PESSIMISTIC CONCERNING FUTURE OUTLOOK, SAYING THAT HE HAD FOUND THAT ONE COULD REASON WITH AFRO-ARABS ON MANY ISSUES AND THAT THEIR COHESION MIGHT FALTER AS THEY BECAME MORE DIFFERENTIATED INTO SUB-GROUPS OF HAVES OR HAVE-NOTS ON OIL AND OTHER RAW MATERIALS. CONCERNING US-FINNISH DIFFERENCES, KARHILO POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN ISSUES SUCH AS CHINA WHERE WE DIFFERED DIAMETRICALLY, ISSUES SUCH AS CONFIDENTIAL

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AFRICAN OR COLONIAL QUESTIONS WHERE THE DIFFERENCES

WERE OF DEGREE OR TACTICS, AND ISSUES SUCH AS ECONOMIC QUESTIONS WHERE WE WERE VERY CLOSE. BOTH KARHILO AND NAHILUOTO FELT THAT THE 28TH UNGA HAD FORTUNATELY BEEN FAIRLY FRICATIO FREE, THAT THE UN HAD AGAIN BEEN OF EFFECTIVE SERVICE THROUGH THE UNEF IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THAT THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES CONTINUED TO PERFORM VALUABLE WORK.

3. EMBASSY VERY MUCH APPRECIATES SPEEDY AND HELPFUL DEPARTMENT REPLY IN REFTEL (C), CONTENTS OF WHICH PASSED ON TO KAHILUOTO TODAY. KAHILUOTO SAID THAT FINNISH VIEWS ON PEACEKEEPING AND PROSPECTS FOR IT ARE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH THOSE EXPRESSED IN REFTEL (C), AND WILL INCORPORATE SAME IN PRESENTATION TO FINNISH UN AFFAIRS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TOMORROW. WITHOUT WANTING TO HOLD OUT ANY HOPE OF CONVERTING THE FINNS TO SUPPORT US ON EVERY ISSUE, WE DO FIND IT USEFUL TO KEEP UP A STEADY LOW-KEY DIALOGUE WITH THEM ABOUT THE UN BOTH BETWEEN AND DURING SESSIONS. THIS PARTICULARLY SO SINCE PEOPLE LIKE KARHILO AND KAHILUOTO ARE CLEARLY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO US CONCERNS AND INTERESTS AND CAN SOMETIMES MOVE TOWARD US -- WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS AND CONSTRAINTS OF GENERAL GUIDELINES FROM THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT.

KREHBIEL

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